



From : Joe Dorward
Sent : 1 August 2010
To : Adam Watson
Subject : Pink Paths of Mar

Adam,

When I first saw the new track through Gleann Laoigh Beag into Gleann Dhé I was very pleased. However, the more I thought about the implications of what they'd done, and their implied mindset - the more I was horrified by what they're doing. I've called it geographic revisionism, and landscape abuse - and I don't think I'm being harsh enough. As we both know they've destroyed the historic cart track through Gleann Laoigh Beag, but by bringing engineering into the glens they've diminished the wild quality of them too. They're also destroying the old cart track between Claybokie and Black Bridge by allowing seedlings to get a foothold in it.

I've turned 180-degrees on the NTS - nothing you could say about them would surprise me. I was pleased when they took over Mar Lodge Estate, but I'm now struck by the irony that the upland of Mar was better preserved under the selfish self-interest of a few Earls than it is under the 'guardianship' of the NTS. On Wednesday last I saw three of the vandals at work building a path up Carn a' Mhaim from Preas nam Meàrlach. They're just 'workies' they have no finesse, and no sensitivity for the environment they are working in. It has been decreed that paths will be built from a-to-b - that's all they know,

and that's all they need know.

I'm still unconvinced that any of their track 'maintenance' work is necessary. The tracks have survived well enough for hundreds of years without the level of attention they're getting now. I agree that their track 'maintenance' risks doing, and causing, more damage than doing nothing at all.

Joe